

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A retrieval catheter ~~for retrieving from a bodily lumen a device attached to the distal end of a pull line, the catheter having a wall that defines a catheter lumen and a distal tip that is tapered towards an open distal orifice that defines the distal end of the lumen, the wall over the length of said tapered tip being distensible to allow the orifice to expand, the catheter having~~ , comprising:

a catheter wall defining a catheter lumen and a distal tip that is tapered toward an open distal orifice defining a distal end of the catheter lumen, the wall over the length of the tapered tip configured to distend to expand the distal orifice; and

a distender disposed in the catheter lumen that can be urged distally along the lumen such that the distender presses and configured to press radially outwardly the catheter wall within at the distal tip, so as to distend said to expand the distal orifice[[:]] , the distender having a distal end annulus and a proximal end annulus separated by a radially outward-facing circumferential wall and an axial lumen extending through the distender between said distal and proximal annuli[[:]] , and a pusher shaft that extends from the distender proximally along the catheter lumen to proximally beyond the a proximal end of the catheter lumen and that is arranged configured to push the distender distally until the distal end annulus is distal of the catheter distal orifice and the open distal orifice of the catheter is distended[[:]].

~~whereby, with said pull line extending from the device to be retrieved through the lumen of the distender and the lumen of the catheter,~~

~~the device can be pulled proximally by the pull line relative to the catheter until at least the most proximal part of the device slides over the distal end annulus of the distender into the lumen of the distender.~~

2. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein the catheter is configured to and capable of aspirating aspirate material from the a bodily lumen distal of said catheter the distal tip.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 2, including a distal aspiration port in the wall of the catheter adjacent to or at the or within said distal tip.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, and which is configured as an over-the-wire catheter.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, and which is configured as a rapid exchange catheter, with including a proximal guidewire exit port remote from the proximal end of the catheter.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 5, including a proximal aspiration port in the wall of the catheter distal of said guidewire exit port.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, including a guide catheter with a lumen to receive the retrieval catheter.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 7, wherein the guide catheter has a tapered distal end portion and the retrieval catheter is a snug fit with a distal end orifice of the tapered distal end portion of the guide catheter.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the distender comprises radiopaque material ~~and serves as a radiopaque marker.~~

10. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein the catheter wall includes adjacent ~~said distal tip~~ an annular radiopaque marker adjacent the distal tip.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein the distender comprises an annular distender ring and a frusto-conical annular element co-axial with said distender ring ~~and with its,~~ the annular element positioned proximal of the distender ring with its larger diameter end contiguous therewith ~~with said distender ring, and extending proximally from the ring.~~

12. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 11, wherein the distender ring ~~is made of~~ comprises radiopaque material.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein the distender distal end annulus exhibits an end face transverse to the axis of the lumen of the distender.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, further comprising in combination with a device to be retrieved, the device including a pull line having a length to extend from the device to at least the proximal end of the catheter lumen, the distender distal end annulus configured to receive at least a proximal portion of the device.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 14, wherein the device is a lumen occlusion balloon.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 14, wherein the device is a filter for filtering passage of bodily fluid within a bodily lumen.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ The retrieval catheter according to claim 1, wherein ~~said distender~~ the pusher shaft comprises a stainless steel hypotube tube.

18. (New) A retrieval catheter, comprising:  
a catheter shaft including a tapered distal tip configured to distend; and  
a distender disposed in a lumen of the catheter shaft, including a generally tubular body having a lumen and an annular element positioned about an outer surface of the body, the annular element having an outside diameter larger than an inside diameter of at least a distal end of the distal tip.

19. (New) The retrieval catheter according to claim 18, wherein the distender includes a return cone positioned about an outer surface of the body proximal of the annular element, the return cone having a frusto-conical configuration with a large diameter end approximately equivalent to the outside diameter of the annular element, the large diameter end contiguous with the annular element.

20. (New) The retrieval catheter according to claim 19, wherein the annular element and return cone are bonded to the body by an adhesive.

21. (New) The retrieval catheter according to claim 18, wherein the distender includes a pusher element.

22. (New) The retrieval catheter according to claim 21, wherein the pusher element comprises stainless steel, and wherein a distal end of the pusher element is bonded to the body.

23. (New) The retrieval catheter according to claim 21, wherein the pusher element extends from the distender positioned in a distal end of the catheter lumen to at least a proximal end of the catheter lumen.

24. (New) The retrieval catheter according to claim 23, wherein the pusher element includes a lumen, a proximal opening and a distal opening.

25. (New) The retrieval catheter according to claim 18, wherein the catheter shaft includes a first opening in a wall thereof positioned adjacent the distal tip and a second opening in the catheter shaft wall spaced proximally from the first opening.

26. (New) The retrieval catheter according to claim 25, further comprising a guide catheter including a tapered distal tip, the catheter shaft disposed in a lumen of the guide catheter and having an aspirating position wherein the first opening is distal to the guide catheter distal tip and the second opening is proximal thereto in the guide catheter lumen.

27. (New) The retrieval catheter according to claim 18, wherein the catheter shaft includes a radiopaque marker adjacent the distal tip.

28. (New) The retrieval catheter according to claim 18, wherein the annular element includes a radiopaque material.

29. (New) A method for retrieving a medical device, comprising:
- providing a retrieval catheter including a catheter shaft with a tapered distal tip configured to distend, and a distender disposed in a lumen of the catheter shaft, including a generally tubular body having a lumen and an annular element positioned about an outer surface of the body;
  - positioning the retrieval catheter adjacent a medical device in a bodily lumen;
  - moving the distender distally in the catheter shaft lumen and at least a portion of the distender distal of the distal tip, the annular element distending the distal tip; and
  - pulling at least a proximal portion of the medical device into a lumen of the body.